

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00727 01 OF 02 121911Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 EUR-12 EA-07 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 /091 W

-----121929Z 041204 /50

R 121830Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4475

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 0727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES YOUTH CONGRESS

SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE YOUNG SOCIALIST MOVEMENT'S (YSM) FIRST BIENNIAL CONGRESS ON APRIL 10, PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, BREAKING WITH PAST POLICY, ADMITTED THAT GUYANA HAS RACIAL DIVISIONS AND MADE "RACIAL AMITY" THE CENTRAL THEME OF HIS SPEECH. HE TOLD THE YSM IT HAD A SPECIFIC DUTY OF ESTABLISHING RACIAL AMITY THROUGHOUT GUYANA. BURNHAM'S CALL FOR RACIAL HARMONY WAS ONE OF SEVERAL RECENT SIGNALS THAT THE GOVERNMENT PARTY HAS DECIDED, BELATEDLY, TO TRY TO BRIDGE OVER THE DEEP RACIAL DIVISIONS IN GUYANESE SOCIETY BEFORE THE 1978 ELECTIONS. AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CONGRESS THAT A SOVIET "DELEGATION", I.E. THE LOCAL ASSISTANT CULTURAL ATTACHE, ATTENDED THE CONGRESS APPARENTLY SIGNALS A CHANGE FROM THE COOLNESS WHICH HAD CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE USSR UNTIL THE END OF LAST WEEK. ALTHOUGH BURNHAM REFERRED TO COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES, HE MADE NO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 00727 01 OF 02 121911Z

COMPLAINTS OF "DESTABILIZATION" OR EXTERNAL THREATS IN HIS SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

1. ON THE FINAL DAY (APRIL 10) OF THE FIRST BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE YSM -- YOUTH ARM OF THE RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) -- PRIME MINISTER FORBES BURNHAM ADDRESSED AN AUDIENCE OF OVER 2,000 YSM MEMBERS.

REPORTEDLY 1,000 OF THEM HAD MARCHED FROM THE DISTANT PARTS OF THE REPUBLIC TO GEORGETOWN FOR THE OCCASION OF THE CONGRESS. PHOTOS OF THEM AT VARIOUS STAGES OF THEIR MARCH WERE PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS DURING THE WEEK. GUESTS AT THE CONGRESS WERE YOUTH DELEGATES FROM VIET NAM, CUBA, NORTH KOREA, JAMAICA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

2. THE CENTRAL THEME OF BURNHAM'S SPEECH WAS THAT RACIAL AMITY IS ESSENTIAL IF SUCCESS IN GUYANA'S SOCIALIST REVOLUTION IS TO BE ACHIEVED. HE ADMITTED THERE WAS A RACIAL PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY, AND HE CONGRATULATED THE YSM FOR THE GEOGRAPHIC AND ETHNIC REPRESENTATION WHICH THE DELEGATES REPRESENTED. HE URGED THE YSM TO MAKE AN EVEN GREATER EFFORT TO INCLUDE ALL RACES IN THE YSM, ASSERTING THAT "REGARDLESS OF THE ETHNICITY OF ANY SINGLE GUYANESE, HE IS A GUYANESE.... THE YSM HAS A SPECIFIC DUTY TO CROSS ALL ETHNIC LINES AND ESTABLISH RACIAL AMITY BUILT AROUND A COMMON SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION UPON WHICH WE HAVE EMBARKED."

3. BURNHAM ALSO TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT THE ECONOMY WAS IN DIFFICULTY AND THAT THE PEOPLE OF GUYANA HAD BEEN PLACED ON TRIAL. IT WOULD REQUIRE ALL THE DEDICATION, REVOLUTIONARY ZEAL, PATRIOTIC COMMITMENT OF THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE YOUTH, TO HELP OVERCOME THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE YEAR AHEAD. HE COMPLIMENTED THE YSM FOR THE CONTRIBUTION THEIR MILITANCY HAD MADE IN THE PAST, PARTICULARLY LEADING UP TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN 1965 AND INDEPENDENCE IN MAY 1966, AND TOLD THEM THEIR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GEORGE 00727 01 OF 02 121911Z

TASK HAD ONLY BEGUN SINCE "AS SOCIALISTS, WE HAVE SET UPON A COURSE TO REVOLUTIONIZE OUR ECONOMY AND OUR SOCIETY, TO END EXPLOITATION, TO END POVERTY, TO END DISCRIMINATION, TO PUT UP THE COMMANDING HEIGHTS OF THE ECONOMY IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE."

4. BURNHAM ALSO EXHORTED YSM MEMBERS TO WORK HARD AT ANY JOB THEY TOOK. THEY MUST LOOK UPON THE JOB AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM. HE ALSO CALLED UPON THEM TO WATCH OUT FOR SABOTEURS WHO WOULD DAMAGE PUBLIC PROPERTY. THE YSM MUST BE IN THE VANGUARD AS THE MOST HIGHLY TASK-CONSCIOUS SECTION OF THE POPULATION AND IT SHOULD BE RUTHLESS IN TURNING BACK COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY TENDENCIES IN GUYANA. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO URGED THE YOUTH TO BECOME MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS AND WORK WITHIN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE SUGGESTED TO THE YSM MEMBERS THAT THEY SHOULD STRETCH OUT THEIR HANDS TO THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (EAST INDIANS).

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00727 02 OF 02 121914Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CU-02 EUR-12 EA-07 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 /091 W
-----121929Z 041241 /50

R 121830Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4476
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 0727

5. BURNHAM MADE NO MENTION OF "DESTABILIZATION"
OR EXTERNAL ENEMIES. THIS WAS ODD AS ONLY LAST WEEK THE
OPPOSITION PPP WALKED OUT OF
PARLIAMENT AFTER BEING ACCUSED OF DESTABILIZING THE
NATION BECAUSE THE GENERAL AGRICULTURE WORKERS UNION (GAWU),
A PPP AFFILIATE, HAD DECLARED THAT IT WOULD STRIKE TO CLOSE
DOWN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY. THIS STRIKE ULTIMATUM WAS WITHDRAWN
FRIDAY, APRIL 8. WHETHER BURNHAM'S PLEA FOR RACIAL HARMONY WAS
LINKED TO A RECONCILIATION WITH THE PPP OR IT WAS PART OF
A BROADER EFFORT TO CULTIVATE EAST INDIANS, WE DO NOT
KNOW YET.

6. ANOTHER INTERESTING SIDELIGHT TO THE YSM CONGRESS
WAS THE APPEARANCE IN THE PRESS ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE
CONGRESS THAT A SOVIET "DELEGATION" WAS PRESENT. ALL
PREVIOUS PUBLICITY HAD INDICATED THAT THE YSM HAD INVITED
DELEGATIONS FROM FOUR COUNTRIES--VIET NAM, NORTH KOREA,
JAMAICA, AND CUBA--WITH NO MENTION WHATEVER OF A SOVIET
DELEGATION. MOREOVER, RUMORS AROUND GEORGETOWN HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 00727 02 OF 02 121914Z

INDICATED THAT, UP TO LAST WEEK AT LEAST, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE GOG WERE COOL DUE TO AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE OF CHEDDI JAGAN AND SOVIET PROFESSIONS OF "INABILITY" TO CONTROL HIM. THE SOVIET "DELEGATION" WHICH MATERIALIZED AT THE LAST MINUTE, ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY SOURCE, WAS THE ASSISTANT CULTURAL ATTACHE OF THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY HERE.
BLACKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, YOUTH GROUPS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE00727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770126-1122
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770467/aaaacfxl.tel
Line Count: 178
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba4cbda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2835419
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES YOUTH CONGRESS SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE YOUNG SOCIALIST MOVEMENT'S (YSM) FIRST BIENNIAL CONGRESS ON APRIL 10, PRIME M
TAGS: PFOR, GY, (BURNHAM, L F S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba4cbda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009